HOLOTHURIA TREMULA.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus liberum, nudum, gibbum, ano terminali.
Tentacula plura in altera extremitate.
Os inter tentacula.

Lin. Syſt. Nat. p. 1089.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

HOLOTHURIA tentaculis faſciculatis, corpore papillis hinc ſubconicis, illinc cylindricis.

Lin. Syſt. Nat. p. 1090.

FISTULARIA.

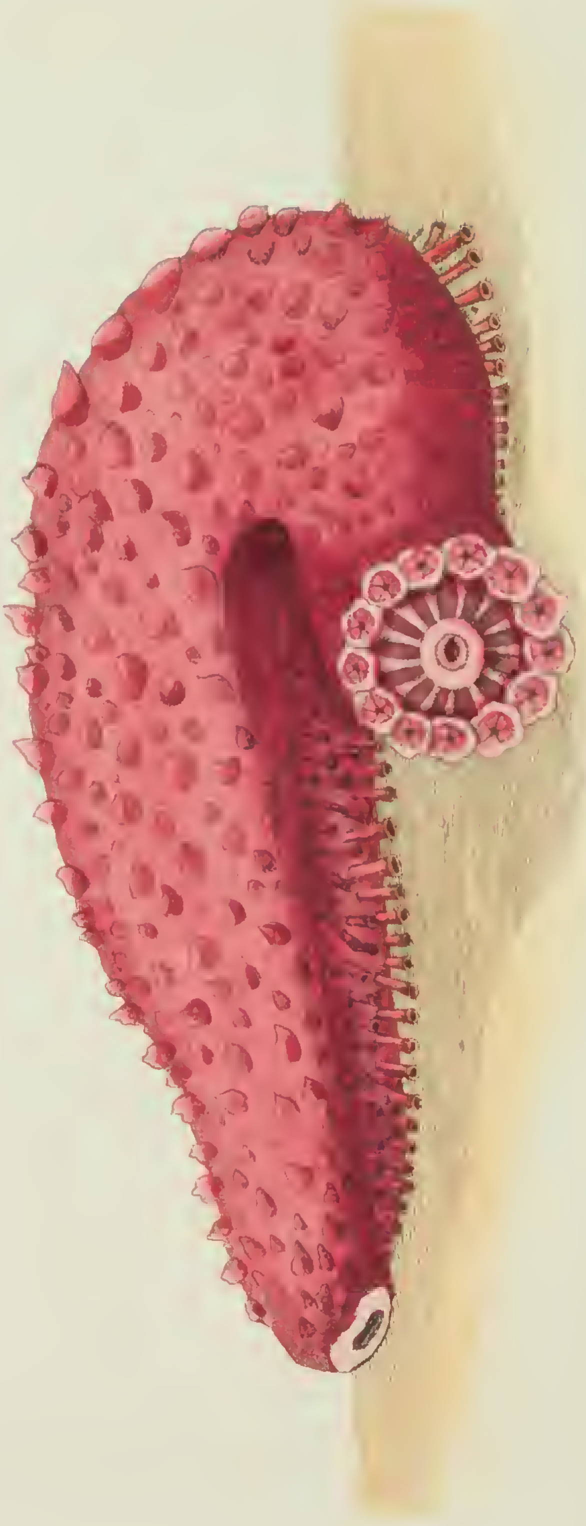
Forſk. Fn. aegypt. ar. t. 39. f. A.

HYDRA.

Bohadſch. anim. mar. p. 75. t. 6.

Facie varia adeo et mutabili ſunt multa animalia quæ in ordine molluſcorum continentur, ut eorum veram figuram dificillimum ſit verbis apte deſcribere, cum iſtius animalculi more quod diſtinxit Linnæus nomine *Chaos Proteus*, varias horæ momento formas poſſint induere, et citiſſima metamorphoſi ſpectantis oculos decipere. Pollet hac facultate

tate totum genus *Holothuria*, præcipue autem ſpecies de qua jam agitur, quæ quieſcens et intacta oblonga eſt et fere cylindracea; ſimul atque vero locum mutare inceperit, protruduntur ſtatim e pluribus corporis partibus tentacula fere innumera, adeo ut totum animal quaſi ſpinis mollibus obſitum videatur. Contrahitur quoque ad libitum in formam globoſam ſeu leviter ovatam. Conſtat color, ut plurimum, ex albedine et rubore pulchre commiſſis, variantibus autem pro ætate, anni tempore, aliiſque de cauſis. In litoribus maris ſeptentrionalis non raro reperitur Holothuria tremula. Poſſunt omnes Holothuriæ, ſi irritentur, aquam ex ore ejaculari ut ſolent Aſcidiæ, velut e ſiphone proſilientem.



TREMULOUS HOLOTHURIA.

Generic Character.

Body unfixed, naked, gibbous, with an open extremity.
Tentacula numerous, ſurrounding one extremity.
Mouth ſituated amidſt the tentacula.

Specific Character.

HOLOTHURIA with numerous conical papillæ on its upper ſurface, cylindric ones on its lower, and numerous faſcicular tentacula ſurrounding the mouth.

So ſtrange and variable are the ſhapes of ſeveral marine animals belonging to the tribe Molluſca, that it is difficult to give a clear idea of their form by any deſcription; ſince like the animalcule known by the name of Proteus, (Chaos Proteus. Lin.) they are capable of totally altering their appearance, and aſſuming an aſpect widely different from that in which they appeared a few minutes before. This is no where more remarkable than in the genus Holothuria, and the ſpecies here figured may ſtand as a curious example of this mutable power. When

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perfectly at reſt, and undiſturbed, it appears of an oblong ſhape; but when it prepares to alter its ſituation, it protrudes from moſt parts of its body an infinite number of tentacula or feelers, in ſuch a manner as to appear beſet with ſoft ſpines. It alſo is capable of contracting itſelf at pleaſure into a globular ſhape, or ſlightly oval. Its colour is commonly a beautiful mixture of red and white, but in this reſpect it varies conſiderably, according to the circumſtances of vigor, the ſeaſon of the year, &c. &c. It is not unfrequently found on the coaſts of the northern ſeas.